

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 26-30 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 10-13, 15 and 26-30, stating that it is unclear whether the duplex pipe is being claimed as part of the invention. Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to overcome the objection and clarify that the duplex pipe is being claimed as part of the invention in combination with the joint.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 10, 26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Basham (U.S. Patent No. 3,980,112). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 10 discloses a duplex pipe including an outer pipe for passing a first fluid, an inner pipe disposed inside of the outer pipe for passing a second fluid, and a rib for connecting the outer pipe with the inner pipe, wherein the outer pipe, the inner pipe and the ribs of the duplex pipe are formed as one body by at least one of an extruding process and a drawing process. Basham fails to disclose a duplex pipe as particularly claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is allowable over Basham. Claims 26 and 28 depend from claim 10 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11-13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Basham (U.S. Patent No. 3,980,112) in view of O'Laughlin (U.S. Patent No. 1,986,010). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Basham fails to disclose a duplex pipe as set forth in claim 11. O'Laughlin fails to correct this deficiency of Basham with respect to claim 11. Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 27, 29 and 30 depend from claim 11 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency. At least claim 12 is also allowable for additional reasons. With respect to claim 12, the Examiner asserts that the alleged concave portion includes the tapered/curved section of the body 70A that is left of the numerals 74A and 106A. It appears as though the Examiner may be referring to the slope between elements 105A and 106A. Even if such a portion could be considered a concave portion, there would be no brazing material in this portion. Even if it were appropriate to modify Basham with O'Laughlin, any brazing material would be near the Basham shoulder 74A, which does not include a taper. Accordingly, claim 12 is additionally allowable because the combined teachings and suggestions of Basham and O'Laughlin fail to disclose a concave portion having a tapered cross section as claimed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/798,359
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

DOCKET NO. Q80302

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

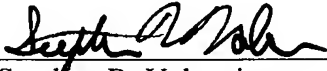
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